



# Department of Health

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## INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING TO NEW YORK STATE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

### Purpose

This advisory explains how individuals traveling from noncontiguous states or territories, or from countries designated a [CDC Level 2 or 3 Travel Health Advisory](#) may travel to New York State (NYS) for medical treatment, in order to do so safely and in accordance with the travel advisory.

### Background

In response to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission in certain states within the United States and internationally, the State has issued a travel advisory to protect New Yorkers and the state's successful containment of COVID-19 pursuant to [Executive Order 205.2](#).

In accordance with Executive Order 205.2 issued by Governor Cuomo, the Department of Health (DOH) travel advisory requires all travelers coming from noncontiguous states or CDC Health Risk Level 2 or Level 3 countries to follow specific protocols for quarantine and/or testing upon arrival in New York.

### Traveling to New York State for Health Care Procedures and Appointments

Individuals and their companions or support persons traveling from noncontiguous state or territory, or from a county designated a CDC Level 2 or 3 to New York State for a medical procedure, elective procedure, or other appointment that cannot be postponed may travel to the extent necessary to receive such treatment, but must otherwise remain quarantined, and avoid all public places and settings when not at the medical facility at which the procedure or appointment is taking place, in accordance with the travel advisory while in New York State. Any procedure or appointment that proceeds should be completed with facility staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) that is appropriate for a patient who was exposed through close contact to an individual with COVID-19.

Individuals entering New York State for a medical procedure or elective surgery must also abide by the conditions set forth in the DOH Updated Guidance for Resumption of Non-Essential Elective Surgeries and Non-Urgent Procedures in Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Office Based Surgery Practices and Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, issued June 14, 2020, including the requirement to be diagnostically tested for COVID-19 using a molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA within 5 days of the elective surgery or procedure.

Support persons, family members and companions must adhere to the guidelines and conditions set forth in the [DOH Health Advisory: COVID-19 Updated Guidance for Hospital Operators Regarding Visitation](#) and the [DOH Informational Message: COVID-19 Hospital Visitation Program](#).

Additionally, individuals must abide by the following conditions:

- If the procedure or elective surgery is more than 5 days from the arrival of the individual to New York State, the individual must seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 on the 4<sup>th</sup> day, at a minimum, after arrival in New York.
- Individuals and their companions or support persons should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in transit or public, and maintain social distancing for a minimum of 14 days after entering New York State.
- Individuals and their companions and support persons, to the extent possible and except for those interactions related to the medical procedure or elective surgery, are required to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings for the period of the quarantine, or the length of time the individual is in the State if shorter, to the extent feasible.

For more information, please contact the NYS COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or consult the resources below.

### **Additional Resources**

- [DOH COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Webpage](#)